

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A welding torch (10) including a torch body (27) and a drive unit (35) for conveying a welding wire (13), particularly for different wire-conveying speeds or a forward/rearward wire conveyance, as well as a hose pack (23) connected to the torch body (27) at an angle relative to a central axis (34) of said welding torch (10), wherein a wire core (32) for the welding wire (13), or the welding wire (13) itself, follows a curved course (42) to form a wire buffer storage (43), and the amount of welding wire (13) contained in the wire buffer storage (43) is adjustable by a change of said curved course, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the wire buffer storage (43) is arranged immediately after the region of connection of the hose pack (23) within the torch body (27), and that the hose pack (23) is arranged at an angle (33) of up to **900** relative to the central axis (34) of the welding torch (10)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A welding torch according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a sensor (39) is provided

to capture the welding wire (13) stored in the wire buffer storage (43).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A welding torch according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a sensor (39) is arranged in front of the drive unit (35), viewed in the conveying direction of the welding wire (13).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A welding torch according to ~~one or several of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the wire core (32) is arranged in the end region within the torch body (27) so as to be freely movable in the longitudinal direction.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A welding torch according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a sensor (39) is arranged to detect the movement of the wire core (32) in the freely movable end region of the wire core (32).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A welding torch according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an indicator (40) is arranged in the freely movable end region of the wire core (32), and that the sensor (39) comprises at least one coil (41)

surrounding said indicator (40) and having an inductance that is changeable by the position of the indicator (40).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A welding torch according to ~~one or several of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the wire core (32) is fixed in the region of the drive unit (35).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A welding torch according to ~~one or several of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the wire core (32) terminates immediately after the region of connection of the hose pack (23) to the torch body (27), and that the welding wire (13) is subsequently arranged to extend barely as far as to the drive unit (35).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A welding torch according to ~~one or several of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the wire core (32) terminates immediately after the region of connection of the hose pack (23) on the torch body (27), and that the welding wire (13) is arranged in a flexible guide hose (47) within the wire buffer storage (43).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A welding torch according to ~~one or several of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein limit elements (45) are arranged in the torch body (27) to delimit the curved course of the unguided welding wire (13)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A welding torch according to ~~one or several of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein the connection of the hose pack (23) to the torch body (27) is realized by a coupling device (24).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A welding torch according to ~~one or several of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein the hose pack (23) is arranged to be adjustable relative to the torch body (27) so as to enable a change of the amount of welding wire (13) contained in the wire buffer storage (43) by such an adjustment.